

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10  
DOE-11 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 NASA-01 SOE-02 SS-15 OES-07 SSO-00 INRE-00  
NSCE-00 OIC-02 TRSE-00 /135 W  
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O 032128Z MAR 78  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9857  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00763

FOR NSC:HUBERMAN

DOD/OSD:SLOCOMB

NASA:TERRELL

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: TSPA, UN  
SUBJECT: UN OUTER SPACE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMM-  
ITTEE (S&TSC): FIFTEENTH SESSION WRAP-UP

1. SUMMARY: 15TH SESSION OF S&TSC CONCLUDED MARCH 2 BY  
ADOPTING REPORT WHICH: (1) SETS STAGE FOR FINAL DECISION  
IN 1979 ON CREATION OF PANEL OF EXPERTS IN UN TO COORDIN-  
ATE REMOTE SENSING ACTIVITIES OF STATES; (2) RECOMMENDS TO  
OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE (OSC) THAT WORLD CONFERENCE ON PEACE-  
FUL USES OF OUTER SPACE BE CONVENED, BUT DOES NOT ADDRESS  
DURATION, LOCATION OR DATE OF CONFERENCE, LEAVING THESE  
AND OTHER QUESTIONS TO OSC; (3) RECOMMENDS SPACE TRANS-  
PORTATION SYSTEMS BE TAKEN UP AS NEW PRIORITY ITEM IN  
1979; (4) DEFERS TO OSC DECISIONS ON APPROPRIATE STEPS  
TO BE TAKEN IN DEALING WITH IMPLICATIONS OF COSMOS 954  
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INCIDENT; (5) FINDS NEAR CONSENSUS ON VIEW THAT THERE ARE  
NO SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICAL BASES FOR CLAIMS OF NATIONAL  
SOVEREIGNTY OVER GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT (GSO); (6) ENDORSES  
CONTINUATION OF THE UN APPLICATIONS PROGRAM AT ESSENTIALLY  
PRESENT FUNDING LEVEL. NEXT MEETING SET FOR FEBRU-  
ARY 5-16, 1979 IN NEW YORK. END SUMMARY.

2. PARTICIPATION AT 15TH SESSION WAS BROAD AND SEVERAL OF THE 10 NEW MEMBERS WERE ACTIVE, PARTICULARLY COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR ON GSO AND IN SUPPORT OF UN APPLICATIONS PROGRAM. ONLY ALBANIA, LEBANON, MOROCCO AND SUDAN WERE NOT REPRESENTED; ALL ARE PREVIOUS MEMBERS.

3. REMOTE SENSING. SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH BUT COULD FIND NO AGREEMENT ON SOVIET PROPOSED CONCEPT OF GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL DATA CATEGORIZATION. ONLY COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND EGYPT SUPPORTED SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR 50 METER CUTOFF. DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT USEFULNESS OF RESOLUTION AS CRITERION TO JUSTIFY CONTROL OF DISSEMINATION, BUT MOST DID FEEL CONTROL OF SOME KIND, ON SOME BASIS, WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR PRIMARY DATA CONTAINING DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT NATURAL RESOURCES. FURTHER SECRETARIAT STUDY ON THIS ASPECT IN COLLABORATION WITH COSPAR WAS RECOMMENDED. SOVIET DEL, OBVIOUSLY FEELING THEY ARE LOSING GROUND IN BATTLE TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT ON DATA DISSEMINATION CONTROL, FOR FIRST TIME EXPRESSLY AND REPEATEDLY RAISED SPECTRE OF THREAT TO QUOTE DEFENSE AND SECURITY INTERESTS OF STATES UNQUOTE IN OPEN DISSEMINATION OF DATA.

4. MONITORING OF POLLUTION BY USE OF REMOTE SENSING WAS DISCUSSED AND THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES NOTED IN SECRETARIAT REPORT WERE REFERRED TO. STATES WERE INVITED  
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TO CONTINUE TO NOTIFY UN OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS FIELD AND THE MATTER WAS CARRIED OVER TO 1979 AGENDA OF S&TSC.

5. CREATION OF PANEL OF EXPERTS TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES OF STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN REMOTE SENSING FIELD. THERE WAS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THIS ITEM FROM THIRD WORLD AND MIXED REACTIONS AMONG DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. US EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT NEED FOR NEW ENTITY AND PRAISED INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION ROLES OF EXISTING UN ORGANS, EXPRESSING THE VIEW THAT THIS WAS ENOUGH FOR THE UN TO DO. THERE WAS NO FORMAL SUPPORT FOR US VIEW, ALTHOUGH PRIVATELY UK, FRANCE, CANADA AND OTHERS AGREED THAT A NEW ENTITY IS NOT NEEDED IN THIS AREA.

6. PROPOSED WORLD CONFERENCE. DISCUSSIONS IN TASK GROUP CREATED TO DEAL WITH THIS SUBJECT NEVER TOUCHED ON QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT CONFERENCE SHOULD BE HELD SINCE NO MEMBER OPPOSED THE CONCEPT OF AN APPROPRIATE CONFERENCE. PRIMARY DEBATE CONCERNED SCOPE AND NATURE OF CONFERENCE AND WHETHER OR NOT LEGAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES OR

AGENDA. AS APPROVED BY S&TSC, OBJECTIVES AND PROPOSED TOPICS FOR AGENDA DO NOT EXPLICITLY REFER TO POLITICAL/ LEGAL MATTERS BUT BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, NIGERIA AND OTHERS COULD REOPEN THIS QUESTION AT OSC. TIME, PLACE, DURATION, MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS HAVE BEEN LEFT TO OSC TO DECIDE. NO ASSESSMENT OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS HAS BEEN MADE BECAUSE OF LACK OF DECISIONS ON SUCH MATTERS BUT TRIVATELY, SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS SUGGEST BALLLARK FIGURE FOR CONFERENCE WILL LIE BETWEEN 400 AND 500 THOUSAND DOLLARS UN EXPENSE.

7. GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT (GSO). DESPITE EFFORTS BY US AND OTHERS TO DELETE GSO FROM RECOMMENDED AGENDA, COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR INSISTED THAT SUBJECT SHOULD AT LEAST BE RE-CONFIDENTIAL

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FERRED TO OSC AND LSC TO DETERMINE IF ANY FURTHER WORK ON THIS TOPIC IS REQUIRED FROM A SCIENTIFIC AND TECH-

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00763

FOR NSC: HUBERMAN  
DOD/OSD: SLOCOMB  
NASA:TERRELL

NICAL POINT OF VIEW. USNOTED POINTEDLY THAT EXISTING

SECRETARIAT REPORT MAKES ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICAL BASIS THAT JUSTIFIES ANY CLAIM OF EXTENSION OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY TO INCLUDE GSO. IN ONE EXCHANGE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR CAICEDO PERDOMO ADMITTED QUOTE THIS IS A LEGAL QUESTION UNQUOTE AND CANNOT BE CONCLUSIVELY DECIDED IN THIS SUBCOMMITTEE USDEL AT LSC SHOULD USE SECRETARIAT REPORT A/AC.105/203 AS CLEAREST EVIDENCE THAT NO REAL BASIS FOR SOVEREIGNTY CLAIM EXISTS.

8. ON FUTURE WORK, ONLY NEW SUBJECT RECOMMENDED FOR PRIORITY CONSIDERATION BY SUBCOMMITTEE IN 1979 IS QUOTE QUESTIONS RELATING TO SPACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS UNQUOTE. PROPOSED BY SOVDEL AND SUPPORTED BY US, THIS ITEM WILL LIKELY PRODUCE A LITTLE MARKETING COMPETITION AMONG US, USSR, ESA AND JAPAN. USDEL TO 1979 SUBCOMMITTEE SESSION SHOULD COME PREPARED TO PRESENT SPACE SHUTTLE CONFIDENTIAL

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IN AMPLE DETAIL TO MEET ANTICIPATED PRESENTATIONS BY OTHER LAUNCHING STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS.

9. ON COSMOS 954 INCIDENT AND ITS FOLLOW-UP, SOVIET INTRANSIGENCE PRECLUDED ANY CONSENSUS BEING REACHED ON NEED TO ESTABLISH WORKING GROUP ON NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN SPACE FULL DETAILS ON DEBATE ON THIS TOPIC AND CONCLUSION CONTAINED SEPTELS.

10. UN SPACE APPLICATIONS PROGRAM. THERE WAS BROAD ENDORSEMENT OF UTILITY AND BENEFITS OF PROGRAM AND SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS THAT BUDGET BE INCREASED. SUBCOMMITTEE ENDORSED CURRENT LEVEL EFFORT AND RECOMMENDED THAT IT BE CONTINUED.

11. COMMENT: USDEL ASSESSMENT IS THAT NOTWITHSTANDING DISAPPOINTMENTS ON NUCLEAR POWER SOURCE ITEM, 15TH SESSION WAS SUCCESSFUL AND PRODUCTIVE MEETING FROM US PERSPECTIVE. LANDSAT SYSTEM WAS AGAIN FEATURED IN FINAL REPORT AND HIGHLY PRAISED. ATTITUDE TOWARD USG IN RESPONSE TO FULL DISCLOSURE ON NUCLEAR POWERED SATELLITES WAS EXTREMELY POSITIVE. WE HAVE MANAGED SO FAR TO KEEP WORLD CONFERENCE ON OUTER SPACE FREE OF LEGAL/POLITICAL ISSUES, AND EFFORTS TO CREATE NEW BODIES OR EXPAND UN ROLES IN SPACE ARE UNDER CONTROL. US DELEGATION WAS PLAGUED DURING CURRENT SESSION BY EXTERNAL DEMANDS ON TIME AND ATTENTION OF ALMOST ALL DELEGATION MEMBERS AND UNUSUALLY ACTIVE AND CRITICAL S & TSC SESSION WAS COVERED ONLY BY MAJOR EFFORT OF CONCERNED AND AVAILABLE PERSONNEL. IN FUTURE, US REPRESENTATIVE STRONGLY RECOMMENDS DELEGATION BE CONSTITUTED WITH ADEQUATE PERSONNEL BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO SERVE FOR DURATION OF

MEETING. LACK OF CONTINUITY CREATES SPECIAL AND UNNECESSARY  
PROBLEMS IN DISCHARGING DUTIES IN A BODY THIS LARGE, WITH AS  
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MANY ITEMS PENDING AS WERE IN THIS CASE. IN FINAL ASSESSMENT  
ALL US GOALS WERE MET FOR THIS SESSION AND DELEGATION  
APPRECIATES ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT AT CRITICAL  
JUNCTURES, ESPECIALLY THE RESPONSIVENESS OF IO/UNP.  
END COMMENT. YOUNG

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## Message Attributes

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